

**W<sub>2</sub>ASACT Meeting Minutes**  
**April 8, 2008**  
**Department of Commerce, Board of Investments**  
**2401 Colonial Drive**  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Floor Conference Room**  
**Hosted by – Board of Investments**  
**10:00 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.**

**MEMBERS PRESENT INCLUDED**

|                |           |                          |   |
|----------------|-----------|--------------------------|---|
| Todd Teegarden | DEQ/SRF   | Mark Smith               | DEQ/SRF   |
| Jim Edgcomb    | MDOC/TSEP | Paul LaVigne             | DEQ/SRF   |
| Bob Fischer    | DNRC      | Jay Sinnott              | EPA   |
| Nancy Geary    | DEQ/SRF   | Pam Smith                | DNRC/RRGL   |
| Nick Clos      | MRWS      | Alice Stanley            | DNRC  |
| Kim Hayes      | MDOC/TSEP | Becky Beard              | BETA  |
| Rick Duncan    | DNRC      | Louise Welsh             | BOI   |
|                |           | Heather Sobrepeña-George | State Tribal<br>Economic<br>Development<br>Commission |

**CALL TO ORDER, SIGN-IN SHEET, AGENDA CHANGES**

The scheduled meeting of the Water, Wastewater, and Solid Waste Action Coordinating Team (W<sub>2</sub>ASACT) was called to order at 10:10 a.m., April 8, 2008 by Todd Teegarden, Chair. A sign-in sheet, agendas and minutes of the last meeting were made available to those in attendance. Mark Smith moved to approve the minutes; Bob Fischer seconded the motion; the minutes were approved and adopted. There were no changes made to the agenda.

**ITEMS FOR REVIEW AND DISCUSSION**

Alice Stanley introduced Heather Sobrepeña-George from the State Tribal Economic Development Commission.

Each of the attendants introduced themselves.

Workshops – Bob Fischer: Three workshops were held this spring, and all were well attended. There won't be any more workshops held until the spring of 2009.

Uniform Application – Jim Edgcomb: A discussion was held regarding the need to amend or crop the PER Checklist in the Application to allow simple projects to follow a shorter checklist. Applicants should just follow the outline, using N/A with a justification when necessary, and keep it simple. It is important to explain why some parts may not apply to certain projects.

Standard Documents – Bob Fischer, update on new documents: Nothing new to report

Internet Website – Pam Smith has been visiting with ITSD regarding the website update and questioned whether the W<sub>2</sub>SACT website should be put on the State webpage under E-Government, making it easier for those who are not familiar with W<sub>2</sub>SACT to find. She will report back at the next meeting on any new information she has regarding costs, alternatives, etc.

## **UPDATES ON ONGOING TOPICS**

Emergency Projects – Bob Fischer: The Helmville school water tested over the limit for coliforms and is undrinkable, so RRLG has given them a \$10,000 grant to fix the problem. The project is out for bids, but has not been completed.

Tribal Issues – None

Regional Water Projects – Rick Duncan:

### **Fort Peck - Dry Prairie**

According to Jim Forseth, the Bureau of Reclamation's staff engineer in charge of overseeing construction of the project, the Fort Peck Tribes' contractor recommenced work on the clear wells and washwater recovery basin for the Regional water treatment plant in March. They are scheduled to complete the work in December 2008.

Dry Prairie's plans to construct water mains in southern Valley County remain on hold, although they are in negotiation with Boeing/MARCo for a water purchase agreement to buy in excess of 400,000 gallon per day from the existing water treatment plant (WTP) at St. Marie.

Dry Prairie's other current projects include:

- Upgrade of the Culbertson WTP via installation of a 3<sup>rd</sup> filter bay
- Proposed service to Basin Electric electrical generating plant NE of Culbertson
- Proposed main from Culbertson area west to Big Muddy (Reservation boundary), from which point the FP Tribes will provide water to the community of Fort Kipp

### **Rocky Boy – North Central**

There is a meeting on Monday, April 14<sup>th</sup>, here in Helena, with the Authority and their consultants, the CC Tribe, Bureau of Reclamation, and State of Montana to discuss accounting practices. (*Poster and handouts*)

The Authority is moving forward with its plan to bring water to North Havre County Water District, using City of Havre water as the interim source.

The CC Tribe has proposed using excess capacity from the new RO plant at the Northern Winz Casino north of Box Elder to supply supplemental water to the community of Big Sandy.

### **The Musselshell-Judith Rural Water Supply**

The final version of the appraisal level study for the proposed project is being prepared, and should be available in the near future.

### **Dry-Redwater**

Golder & Associates is preparing to begin work on the preliminary environmental study for the proposed route from the site of the WTP to the Town of Circle.

The Authority's other point of principal concern at this time is getting their authorization bill introduced. (*Given the rumors I've been hearing, I doubt it will happen in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress.*)

W<sub>2</sub>SACT Project Tracking Sheet – Jim Edgcomb: The latest updated tracking table was handed out. Jim mentioned that he was not getting updates from the group. It was decided that a note should be sent out with the next agenda and minutes to remind members to turn in any project updates to Jim at [jedgcomb@mt.gov](mailto:jedgcomb@mt.gov) so he can keep the table updated and accurate. Jim handed out a sample report from a different project tracking database as another option for the group to consider. Some felt it would be redundant with what already existed. If anyone has input on this idea, let Jim know.

Army Corps of Engineers – Sect. 595 Program & Projects – Pam Smith: Butte has been awarded two WRDA grants, and they have combined them for use on one project. There were 45 applications for the next round of funding. Becky Beard met with a committee out of Seattle, and a grant was approved for Philipsburg to get new water meters. Because of arsenic in Dayton's school water, they will get a new well.

STAG project updates – Todd Teegarden: Three projects were awarded last year: Crow Agency Wastewater, Helena Water, and - Conrad Wastewater. The Missoula Rattlesnake grant has been awarded and can now move forward.

Alice Stanley – Discussion of Governor's Office of Indian Affairs/funding options:

It might be helpful to invite the tribes to attend the next few W<sub>2</sub>SACT meetings, letting the tribes choose which to attend and fit to their schedules. This way they could make contact with the correct people for their particular needs and gain technical assistance with their individual projects. Todd Teegarden and Alice Stanley will work with the Tribal Councils to determine the correct contact information so tribes can be notified of meetings and any new information they may need. Heather Sobrepeña-George will also help facilitate tribal communication with W<sub>2</sub>SACT.

Program / Project Updates – everyone:

Todd Teegarden thanked Louise Welsh for hosting the meeting.

Jim Edgcomb said TSEP is waiting for applications. The amounts and projects awarded will be up to the Legislature. One major change has occurred with regards to the policy of reducing the scope of the project. If the applicant is not able to get all their funds together, they may potentially still be funded, as long as what they complete is a stand-alone project that solves a problem. Paul Lavigne added that DEQ should be included in approval of any reductions in scope of construction to ensure that design standards are adhered to.

Paul LaVigne said the WPCSRF will begin working on the Intended Use Plan and Project Priority List for 2009. Depending on project timing, it could be possible that the priority list may come into use sometime in the next few years because of the large amounts of funding needed for SRF projects like Lockwood, Missoula and Bozeman.

Jay Sinnott (EPA) said the STAG program cannot award new project grants until an environmental review has been completed.

Pam Smith (DNRC) reported that a new grants person will be hired soon. The position closes on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The new grant cycle begins on May 15<sup>th</sup>.

Bob Fischer stated that DNRC is selecting consultants to help with their grant review process.

Nick Clos (MWRS) reported there were approximately 1,010 people attending the Rural Water Joint Conference this past year.

Todd Teegarden will follow up with RD on meeting attendance and new changes to the RD program.

Louise Welch has a new contact list she will distribute to members.

#### **OTHER ISSUES AND LOGISTICS OF NEXT MEETING**

It was suggested that Steve Troendle (RD) be invited to the next meeting to update the group on changes with RD. It was requested that the summer picnic be discussed at the next meeting.

The next meeting will be held on June 10, 2008. DNRC will host the meeting in the basement conference (Bannock) room, 1625 11th Ave. in Helena.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 12:45.